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AMATEUR ARTISTS.

THE PERSONS WHO WORK FOR
PLEASURE AND NOTORIETY.

The Reign of the Amateur and How It Is
Affecting the Various Professions In
Which Mankind Is Trying to Earn a Liv-
ing.—A Metropolitan View.

The other day a company of American
artists seated at the cheap but filling re-
fection of Gruyere cheese and the beer
of the country amused itself by discuss-
ing the serious want of patronage from
which American art is just now suffer-
ing.

"I tell you," cried a young painter of
great talent, "that the professional art-
ist in this country is worse off than ever.
There was a time some 15 or 20 years
ago when his prospects looked bright
and his outlook cheerful. But today he
wastes all his time and energy on pot
boiling, and even his pot boilers have to
go at a sacrifice."

"There are too many of us," quoth
one of his hearers. "The supply ex-
ceeds the demand, and we are simply
paying, as in other walks of life, for the
crime of overproduction."

"There are not too many of us," re-
plied the first speaker. "It's the infernal
amateurs who are doing work al-
most as good as ours, and who are un-
dermining us. It is the reign of the am-
ateur which has taken all the gift off
the gingerbread of the professional."

True, absolutely true, in almost every
highway and byway of modern industry.
The amateur is rapidly displacing the
professional to his own slight—some-
times imperceptible benefit, and always
to the other's injury. When one stops
to consider this truism, one is fairly
stunned by the magnitude and quantity
of the illustrations which prove it. Take,
for instance, the field to which the dis-
cussion above quoted has relation. The
woods are full of amateur "artists." Hardly
a family now exists but has an "artistic"
son or daughter who necessarily babbles
the jargon of the craft and spoils more
canvas and wastes more paint in a week
than most professional artists can afford
in a year.

Not only do their execrable composi-
tions degrade the standard of art, they
do worse and more material harm by
making values ridiculously cheap. Glad
to get anything at all—half the cost
sometimes of the material they use. The
amateur painters of New York alone
constitute unconsciously a guild which
practically starves out the profession.
And the worst of it is that the amateur's
work is nothing like as conspicuously
bad in all instances as it used to be.
Sketchy and thin as the best of it may
be, it certainly complies with the ele-
mentary rules of art, and he must in-
deed be a bold critic who, comparing it
with the efforts of trained and expert
professionals, should unhesitatingly pro-
nounce it without exception rot and rub-
bish.

The amateur actor and the amateur
actress have inflicted incalculable injury
on what calls itself specifically the pro-
fession. It is an open secret, for exam-
ple, that the once profitable city of
Brooklyn has been made a positively
"bad show town," as the phrase goes, by
the number and audacity of its amateurs.
During the season they undertake per-
formances of the severest professional
character with a prodigality of energy
and expenditure almost amounting to
profligate extravagance which utterly
eclipses the productions of the regular
theaters. In fact, the Brooklyn amateurs
have all but destroyed the professional
drama in that city.

Again, the concert rooms of New York
fairly swarm with unpaid vocalists who
acquit themselves in many instances
quite as well as their professional sisters
and brothers, and there are already so
many amateur instrumentalists in this
city eager to play in public who have no
urgent pecuniary need to do so that it is
doubtful if the Musical Protective union
dare order another general strike here,
so enormous would be the rush of fairly
competent amateur fiddlers and others
to take the places of the strikers.

Rising higher in the social world, we
find howling swells like Suffern Tailor
basing their reputations entirely on their
knack of driving four-in-hands on am-
ateur, so that the amateur coachman has
become really an important public char-
acter and worthy of incessant notice.

The amateur wing shot is another so-
cial lion. Compared with the feats of
the plain, uncelebrated every day pot
hunters of Maryland and Pennsylvania,
the performances of the amateur wing
and Edgar Murphy and De Forrest Mur-
rice and the rest of them seem positively
puerile. But none the less are these lat-
ter knights of the trigger exalted and ex-
celled by the newspapers as marvels of
skill and wanted among the possessions
of which we ought all to be enthusiastically
proud. For are they not amateurs?

At the present rate of development
one cannot be certain of the ultimate
limit of amateur expansion. We shall,
beyond doubt, have amateur surgeons,
amateur lawyers, amateur journalists,
amateur barbers, amateur tailors, am-
ateur plumbers, amateur icemen, even
amateur day laborers, perhaps. Our
streets will be patrolled by amateur po-
lice men, our confagurations extinguished
by amateur firemen. And who can tell
when the amateur will have so profound-
ly exhausted the honest occupations that
he will have to become an amateur crim-
inal?

Then shall we have our amateur bur-
glars, our amateur pickpockets, our am-
ateur highwaymen, our amateur murder-
ers. The amateur shoplifter is already a
formidable extant fact. What on earth
is there in our social code to make the
amateur homicide and the amateur river
pirate impossible?

Yes, I faith, this is the reign of the
amateur with a vengeance.—Archibald
Gordon in New York Recorder.

KILLING ROUND A CANDIDATE.

All Hands Unite to Make General Kirby
Smith's Daughter a Postmistress.

Two months ago in the most obscure
pigeonhole in the postmaster general's
office the application of Carrie Kirby
Smith was filed away. It was not
weighty with reasons why she should be
appointed, nor did it lay any particular
claims to the attention of President
Cleveland. It bore no indorsement. It
was simply an humble petition that the
applicant might be given the postoffice
at Sewanee, Tenn. The only sentence
which might recommend this prayer to
Mr. Bissell was the closing paragraph:

"I am the daughter of the late Gen-
eral Edmund Kirby Smith."

The fair applicant kept what she had
done a secret for three weeks when,
having grown accustomed to her disap-
pointment at receiving no reply, she told
some one how she had dared to ask to
distribute the mail to the residents about
the mountain station and to the students
of the University of the South, who de-
pend on this office for their letters. Thus
her secret became known, and now two
generations are watching for her ap-
pointment—that which made its record
along with Kirby Smith and another
which has grown up with his daughter
on the Cumberland plateau. When
General Shop, the Indiana sharpshoot-
er, now occupying the chair of applied
mathematics at the Sewanee university,
heard that Kirby Smith's "war baby"
wanted an office, he swore by all the
Union and Confederate soldiers at once
that she should have the place.

"We will put her in if we have to call
out a regiment of war veterans to do it,"
he said.

And this has literally come to pass.
From the Confederate Survivors' associ-
ation at Nashville the humble applica-
tion was made known throughout the
South and finally reached the line of the
Grand Army of the Republic posts in
the north. The fact that a brave soldier
and distinguished general had died
leaving his family poor, and that his
daughter now came forward seeking to
aid in their support, was all that was
necessary to elicit the enthusiasm of
both sides. With scarcely an exception
every Federal officer now living who had
fought against Kirby Smith has made a
personal appeal for his daughter. Sol-
diers of Bull Run and Manassas scrawled
out letters of recommendation, while
the Cove people in the mountains added
their testimonials to the worth of Kirby
Smith's daughter in characteristic dia-
lect such as is found in Craddock's
stories of the hills. The students of the
institution where the general had so long
taught "math" sent their indorsements
couched in elegant diction and sophis-
ticated phrases. The alumni associa-
tions of Sewanee throughout the coun-
try have also added their indorsements
to help secure the appointment for their
fair friend of old college days.

"I do not mind dying," said the gen-
eral once, "if Carrie is left. She is a
tower of strength."
His estimation of her seems to be cor-
rect. She no sooner found the main
prop of the family gone than she began
to cast about for other means of sup-
port for her mother and young brothers
and sisters. With unusual courage for
a woman, she decided to become the
postmaster where she had so long been
the indispensible belle.

Miss Kirby Smith is well known in
Washington, where she has shone more
than once in the gayest set. There is
scarcely a large city in the south or
west where she has not at one time or
another been the recipient of social hon-
ors.

What Winnie Davis is to the
armies of the Confederacy, Carrie Kirby
Smith is to the soldiers of the transmis-
sissippi. To the remnants of that army
she is still, even before Winnie Davis,
the daughter of the war. The appoint-
ment she seeks is in the presidential
gift.—Washington Cor. St. Louis Globe-
Democrat.

An Esther From an Indian Village.
A remarkable woman has recently
passed away in south India—the dow-
ager Maharajah of Mysore. The daugh-
ter of a petty official of good family, she
was of course neglected, while her
brother received the best home educa-
tion under tutors. While scarcely 10
years of age she insisted on sharing all
his studies that he might help the boy.
Soon she got a tutor for herself, and in
five years she mastered Sanskrit, Can-
arese and Marathi, while not neglecting
music, drawing and needlework.

She was 16 when the late maharaja's
friends were scouring the country for a
fourth bride. After the manner of Queen
Esther, she was chosen, but before she
could be sent for her father was sum-
moned to court to answer for the short
revenue of his village. Only when or-
dered to be whipped was it discovered
whom he was. He was forgiven, the mar-
riage was celebrated on the first lucky
day, and from that time the young queen,
then 17, was a gracious and enlightened
influence in the native state of Mysore,
the most progressive in India.—Cor.
Edinburgh Scotsman.

She Bowled Too Often.

The Princess May has, it appears, sev-
eral things to learn before she will be
thoroughly posted in all the little details
of her new position. During the royal
procession on the occasion of the recent
opening of the Imperial institute, for in-
stance, in the excess of youthful enthu-
siasm and inexperience in sovereign
state, she bowed incessantly as her car-
riage swept through the applauding
throngs. It is feared by the tender court
journals that her royal neck must have
ached sadly after the ordeal. For her
future safety, however, the same solici-
tous prints kindly give her a "pointer,"
got from some of the royal highnesses
who are older hands or necks at the
business. These, including the sagacious
queen herself, bow a certain number of

times only per 100 yards, at a gain, it is
alleged, of comfort and grace.

Which information may not strike the
general reader as of vital importance to
himself at this moment, but like the
Toodles doorplate with Thompson on it
may be very "handy to have in the
house" some day.—New York Times.

A Princess of the Royal Blood.

Eulalie is all right. She is one of us.
We have given her a hearty republican
welcome, and she has made herself en-
tirely at home with us. We have greet-
ed her with the booming of cannon and
the shrill whistles of our ferryboats.
She was at first a little confused by the
noise, but on being assured that it was
intended as a compliment she declared
that her head didn't ache and that she
rather liked it.

The whole country is in love with her.
She is a charming young woman, and
the normal school girls do well to rave.
When she said to them: "Well, young
ladies, I am very much pleased at the
manner in which you have received me,
I am quite proud to be entertained by
you," they thought her a fairy in dis-
guise and clapped their hands in im-
pulse, but when she cried out impul-
sively, "I wish I were sitting on the
benches with you girls," they could
hardly contain themselves.

If any other princesses ever come to
America, we shall judge them by the
standard which Eulalie has furnished,
for though an aristocrat in the historic
sense she is as good a democrat as any of
us.—New York Telegram.

Miss Schreiner at Home and Abroad.

Miss Olive Schreiner arrived in Lon-
don the other day from the Cape, but
it is not likely that she will make a long
stay in England as her arrangements
point to a lengthy sojourn on the con-
tinent. Though the distinguished novel-
ist of South Africa shuns observation
and lives in very retired fashion, she is
not the reclusive many people believe, and
as the friend of suffering humanity in all
its many phases she is certain of a warm
welcome wherever she goes.

It is expected that Miss Schreiner will
soon publish a new novel. Indeed it is
hinted that her principal object in visit-
ing London just now is to place the man-
uscript of it in a publisher's hands, and
that in order to have it finished before
she left home she discontinued for the
present the series of sketches of South
Africa, a few of which appeared in the
periodical press some time ago. Schreiner
House, Matjiesfontein, the home of the
author of "The Story of an African
Farm," is about 300 miles from Cape
Town, and an idea of its seclusion may
be had when it is stated that Miss
Schreiner was on the verge of woman-
hood before ever she set eyes upon a
town.—London Chronicle.

Caution in Wearing Veils.

Some wise women ought to write the
decalogue of veils, and all women ought
to make it mandatory for themselves.
Nothing makes or mars a pretty face so
much as a veil, as was conclusively
proved by the violet and purple abomi-
nations wherewith women elected to dis-
figure themselves last winter. Most of
them looked as if they had just been dis-
charged from an erysipelas hospital.
The novelties in tissues must be ven-
tered upon warily, for among them are
black nets scattered over with lozenges
in gold tinsel or dotted with stars in
color which are apt to give the wearer
a resemblance to an Indian begum.
Black nets with small patterns and few
spots best set off a pretty face and dis-
guise the defect of a plain one.—New
York Sun.



S. P. SMITH, of Towanda, Pa.,
whose constitution was completely
broken down, is cured by Ayer's
Sarsaparilla. He writes:

"For eight years, I was, most of the
time, a great sufferer from constipa-
tion, kidney trouble, and indiges-
tion, so that my constitution seemed
to be completely broken down. I was
induced to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and
took nearly seven bottles, with such
excellent results that my stomach,
bowels, and kidneys are in perfect
condition, and, in all their functions, as
regular as clock-work. At the time
I began taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla, my
weight was only 129 pounds; I now
weigh 169 pounds, and was never in so
good health. If you could see me be-
fore and after using, you would want
me for a traveling advertisement.
I believe this preparation of Sarsaparilla
to be the best in the market to-day."

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Quilts, reduced from \$1.25 to 90c.
At \$1.10—Heavy White largest size
Bed Quilts in Marcelline patterns, re-
duced from \$1.40 to \$1.10.
At 74c—Good quality Check Nainsook,
reduced from 12 1/2c to 7 1/2c.
At 8c—Good quality White India
Lawn, reduced from 12 1/2c to 8c.
At 5c—Yard wide Bleached Muslin
at 5c.

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Cotton Challies in good desirable styles
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